

Thank you to Commissioners Copps and Adelstein for bothering to show up at last month's open forum.

My name is Samantha and I am a concerned citizen, also on air for community radio KXLU Los Angeles, and an independent new media producer and director. I would like to open with PBS newscaster Bill Moyers' comments from yesterday's "Democracy Now" interview-- THANK GOODNESS for 90.7fm KPFK Los Angeles--

BILL MOYERS: "The majority of the FCC is in the ideological pocket of the industry and of the White House. Michael Powell [an aside: former Sec of State Colin Powell's SON] was there to do the White House bidding in allowing increasing consolidation and control over what we see, hear and read. Kevin Martin, 35, 36, 37 year-old, is also in the ideological pocket of the industry. Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, who are the Democratic members of the FCC, do their best to defend the public interest, but they're outvoted and outgunned on the FCC. And once again, you know, when I was doing NOW with Bill Moyers for three years, we covered this story of the FCC, of media consolidation, over three dozen times. That's what's needed, is to arouse the public to insist that the FCC be fair and open and honest about this issue of media consolidation."

To begin with... WHO the hell is really supporting these measures?! If you are flipping through the mental rolodex of those supporters, I strongly suggest an analysis of whose interests those persons represent.

I have an example of someone who may be in support, Rupert Murdoch. According to reports and interviews analyzed by Robert Greenwald's documentary "OutFoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism", BEFORE Murdoch purchased MySpace in 2005 for a whopping \$580 MILLION, he-- by way of hundreds of worldwide broadcast and written media outlets he owns-- commanded a potential worldwide audience of 4.5 BILLION people, THAT IS 3/4 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION. His political agenda is well known and he is accused of being INTIMATELY involved in the orchestration of news content and broadcasts.

THE MEASURES BEING REVIEWED NOW BY THE FCC HAVE GLOBAL, NOT JUST DOMESTIC IMPLICATIONS.

On September 11th, 2006, the five year anniversary of an event that dominated airwaves for weeks, we were approximately 1000 people strong in the SAME STRIKING TEE SHIRT reading "Investigate 9/11", and nearly 2000 folks total representing a movement for the Truth about what happened on that day. We were also represented in global protests (all over europe, latin america, the muslim world) not just several domestic cities-- BUT THE ONLY NEWS BYTES THAT I SAW in ALL of the newscasts that I perused that evening, the ONLY news bytes on protests were centered around cities in the Muslim World, further reinforcing the American People's ignorance, stereotypes, and brainwashed beliefs that these truth movements in our great country are marginal and/or virtually nonexistent.

The buzzterm pervasively used by broadcasters to undermine the legitimacy of these independent research and journalistic endeavors is "conspiracy theorists". It takes a news parody show to juxtapose newscasts in which people who call themselves journalists are so flagrantly parroting the party lines and White House press releases in an attempt to further marginalize dissent. Examples are popularized terminology like "conspiracy theory", "cut and run", "stay the course", "liberal" or "liberal media", or perhaps the across the board vilification of Argentina President Hugo Chavez' UN comments refering to George W Bush as "the devil" and offering ZERO analysis of the content of that speech. The examples are many and varied.

DOES THIS IN ANY WAY INDICATE AN EFFICIENT LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE AND INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM?

NO!

SYNDICATED NEWS = THE DEATH OF JOURNALISM

On 9/11/2006 on every single network I could find, the newscasts were almost ENTIRELY dominated by pre-recorded stories of personal loss. What happened on 9/11 was tragic and continues to be, BUT THOSE STORIES ARE NOT NEWS.

In my opinion, this is evidence of a grand systemic and structural political agenda requiring the cooperation of a horizontally

impressive and wide variety of big businesses and industrial complexes. MORE THAN ANY INDUSTRY the funneling of information by way of PUBLIC DOMAIN is imperative to our global and especially domestic understanding of who we are as Americans. It is essential to Democracy. It is a criminal non-disclosure that our news syndicates make the conscious decisions to keep information about people's movements, legislative actions and political measures, and EVEN FCC OPEN FORUM MEETINGS hidden from the public by SIMPLY NOT REPORTING IT.

My grandfather believes in the news. He watches CNN and FoxNews. He reads The Wall Street Journal. he comes from Walter Cronkite's era of broadcasting and trusts his government, VIA THE FCC, to regulate with integrity. My grandfather also recently sent my sister an article entitles "A New Cold War" from The Wall Street Journal demonizing all of Islam by crimes of the radical few. I am personally offended by this country's systemic racism, including that of my grandfather, and I fault syndicated, deficient journalism for the IGNORANCE of this American thinking.

In closing, I would like to read more of Bill Moyers' commentary on "Democracy Now"--

BILL MOYERS: "You ask why I'm back [on PBS]. As I listened to you begin this broadcast with the litany of reality that you report, I got a slow burn, you know, at just what's happening to this country, to our government and to America under the reign of the corporate, political, and religious Right. And there are so few places that, as you are doing, are just simply telling the other side of the story, letting the facts add up, that I realize I couldn't sit in the rocking chair and comfortably enjoy the books I'm reading while our Democracy, it needs all the information those of us who are independent journalists can provide. So I came back because there just is too much to report and too much to tell at a particular time when i think... our Democratic form of government is in the most precarious state since the Depression."